

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing an airtight container having a space in which a pressure is lower than ~~[[the]]~~ an outside pressure, between opposing first and second substrates, comprising steps of:

assembling the container having ~~[[the]]~~ a space between the first substrate ~~[[in]]~~ on which an electrode is disposed on a surface ~~[[as]]~~ to be facing the space ~~[[side]]~~ and the second substrate which has a structure for supplying a potential to the electrode ~~being opposite each other~~; and

applying a pressure difference between ~~[[the]]~~ inside and ~~[[the]]~~ outside of the container assembled in the ~~[[above]]~~ assembling step,

wherein in the container before the ~~[[pressure difference application]]~~ applying step, the structure has a concave portion which is opened to an external atmosphere at a through-hole penetrating the second substrate and closed at ~~[[the]]~~ a bottom of the concave portion, having conductivity, and wherein the pressure difference is brought in the ~~[[pressure difference application]]~~ applying step to elongate lengths of the structure in a direction in which the first and second substrates are opposed to each other, whereby the structure is formed in a shape to enable supplying of a potential to the electrode through the structure.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing an airtight container having a space, in which a pressure is lower than ~~[[the]]~~ an outside pressure, between opposing first and second substrates, comprising steps of:

assembling the container having ~~[[the]]~~ a space between the first substrate ~~[[in]]~~ on which an electrode is disposed on a surface ~~[[as]]~~ to be facing the space ~~[[side]]~~ and the second substrate which has a structure for supplying a potential to the electrode ~~being opposite each other~~; and

applying a pressure difference between ~~[[the]]~~ inside and ~~[[the]]~~ outside of the container assembled in the ~~[[above]]~~ assembling step,

wherein in the container before the ~~[[pressure difference application]]~~ applying step, the structure has a surface of a curved shape having conductivity between a portion of the structure bonded to the second substrate and a portion of the structure to be brought into direct or indirect contact with the electrode, and the pressure difference is brought between ~~[[the]]~~ inside and ~~[[the]]~~ outside of the surface of the curved shape in the ~~[[pressure difference application]]~~ applying step to deform the surface, whereby the structure is formed in a shape to enable supplying of a potential to the electrode through the structure.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ a portion of the structure to be brought into direct or indirect contact with the

electrode and ~~[[the]]~~ a portion of the structure to be deformed ~~[[of the structure]]~~ are formed by bending one plate member.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the portion of the structure to be brought into direct or indirect contact with the electrode and the portion of the structure to be deformed ~~[[of the structure]]~~ are formed by bending one plate member.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein the portion of the structure to be brought into direct or indirect contact with the electrode, the portion of the structure to be deformed, and the portion of the structure bonded to the second substrate are formed by bending one plate member.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein the portion of the structure to be brought into direct or indirect contact with the electrode, the portion of the structure to be deformed, and the portion of the structure bonded to the second substrate are formed by bending one plate member.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing an image display apparatus, ~~by implementing the method of claim 1 as a method for~~ comprising the steps of:

manufacturing ~~[[an]]~~ the airtight container according to the method of claim 1; and

~~[[having]]~~ providing an image display device inside of the airtight container.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing an image display apparatus, ~~by implementing the method of claim 2 as a method for~~ comprising the steps of:
manufacturing ~~[[an]]~~ the airtight container according to the method of claim 2; and

~~[[having]]~~ providing an image display device inside of the airtight container.

9. (Currently Amended) An airtight container comprising:
a first substrate ~~[[in]]~~ on which an electrode is disposed;
a second substrate which is opposite to a ~~[[the electrode-disposed]]~~
surface of the first substrate on which the electrode is disposed; and
a structure which is bonded to the second substrate, and brought into
direct or indirect contact with the electrode to supply a potential to the electrode,
wherein in the structure, a portion deformed by a lower pressure in
an internal space between the first and second substrates than a pressure of an external
atmosphere and a portion brought into direct or indirect contact with the electrode are
formed by bending one metal plate member.

10. (Currently Amended) An airtight container comprising:
a first substrate ~~[[in]]~~ on which an electrode is disposed;
a second substrate which is opposite to a ~~[[the electrode-disposed]]~~
surface of the first substrate on which the electrode is disposed; and
a structure which is bonded to the second substrate, and brought into
direct or indirect contact with the electrode to supply a potential to the electrode,
wherein the structure is bonded to a surface₁ of the second substrate,
opposite the first substrate ~~at a through-hole penetrating the second substrate~~, and the
structure has a concave portion which is opened at ~~[[the]]~~ a through-hole₁ to an external
atmosphere to an internal space formed between the first and second substrates and closed
at ~~[[the]]~~ a bottom of the concave portion, and a portion ~~in which a surface opposite a~~
~~surface bonded to the second substrate is exposed to the external atmosphere as a portion~~
~~bonded to the surface of the second substrate opposite the first substrate~~ and having a first
surface and a second surface opposite to said first surface, said first surface being a surface
to be bonded to said second substrate, said second surface being exposed to the external
atmosphere.

11. (Original) An image display apparatus comprising:
the airtight container of claim 9; and
an image display device arranged in the airtight container.

12. (Original) An image display apparatus comprising:
the airtight container of claim 10; and
an image display device arranged in the airtight container.

13. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein by bringing said pressure difference, said bottom of the concave portion is brought directly into contact with said electrode, said bottom of the concave portion is brought into contact with said electrode through a metal being more pliable than said electrode, or said bottom of the concave portion is brought into contact with said electrode through a conductive adhesive.